SHARMA) : (a) No such proposal has been received by Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 6.35 lakhs as on 1-1-1993. District-wise information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) and (e) For the year 1992-93, the target for enrolment of new LPG connections for the whole country is 7.5 lakhs. Allotment of new LPG connections is not made on State-wise basis. New LPG connections are released in various locations. taking into consideration the waiting list, slack available with the distributors, and product availability, etc.

Postponement of Gujarat Refinery Expansion

*408. SHRI SURESH KALMADI :
SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Oil Corporation has postponed its Guarat refinery expansion plan; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Meeting of Commonwealth Countries to be held in October, 1993

*409. SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the next meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Governments will be held in Limassol, Cyprus during October, 1993;

(b) whether Government propose to take up certain international issues of peace, amity and advancement towards 21st century;

(c) if so, details thereof alongwith the details of other issues to be taken up;

(d) whether Government also propose to take up the issue of support to terrorists with arms and ammunition by Pakistan and infiltrating them into Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir to disturb the territorial integrity of India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House (See below).

Statement

The next Summit meeting of Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM) will be held at Nicosia and Limassol in Cyprus from 21-25 October, 1993.

The agenda for the Cyprus CHOGM Summit is under preparation by the Commonwealth Secretariat. However, as indicated in the Harare CHOGM Declaration which sets out the priorities for the Commonwealth in various fields, Commonwealth countries are committed to consulting and cooperating in the interests of their peoples and in the promotion of international understanding and world peace. India fully ascribes to these goals.

It is not customary for bilateral issues to be raised at Commonwealth Summits. As such, Government do not propose to raise the question of Pakistan's support to terrorism at that forum. However, it may be recalled that the Harare Summit Communique had expressed strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and had recognised terrorism as one of the most dangerous and pernicious threats to stability and to human rights.

"Montreal Protocol on the Ozone Layers'

*410. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY :
SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state (a) whether it is a fact that India was elected as the President at the 4th Meeting of

the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on the Ozone layer;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India impressed upon the developed countries that the technology to switchover to the substitutes of ozone depleting substances like Chloro-Flouro-Carbons (CFCs) must be made available to the developing countries free of strings;

(c) if so, what is the response thereto; and

(d) what are the measures Government propose to take to protect the ozone layer ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. India's position on this matter was widely appreciated as being representative of all developing countries. The meeting agreed that the accelerated phase-out schedule adopted by the developed countries will not apply to the developing countries until a comprehensive review in 1995 of transfer of technology and financial resources to meet the incremental costs.

(d) India has acceded to the Montreal Protocol in order to strengthen the international efforts to protect the depleting stratospheric ozone layer. At the national level, a strategy is being finalised for the phase-out of ozone depleting substances. Simultaneously, work has commenced on the preparation of the country programme and projects to be posed for assistance from the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol.

Increase in Tobacco consumption

*411. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the extent of increase in tobacco consumption during the last three years;

(b) what is the rate of acceleration of its consumption;

(c) what is the number of cigarettes, chewing tobacco and Bidi manufacturing units in India;

(d) whether it is a fact that per-capita consumption of tobacco in India is the highest amongst the countries worldover;

(e) whether Government have initiated any steps to reduce tobacco consumption; and

(f) whether Government propose to ban tobacco advertisements ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) As per report of the Tobacco Board, the consumption of tobacco in India during the last three years has remained almost stagnant.

(c) There are 28 Cigarette manufacturing units in India. Information regarding chewing tobacco and Beedi manufacturing units are not available.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Yes, Sir. Government have initiated several measures like education about the ill effects of tobacco, prohibition of smoking in public places besides statutory warning on Cigarette packs to the effect that smoking is injurious to health.

(f) A proposal in this regard is under consideration.

Special Grants for Nagpur and Hyderabad for National Highways and Ring Roads

*412. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any request for allocation of more funds for National Highways and Ring Roads in Nagpur and Hyderabad;

(b) if so, what is the total central allocation for these two cities for the current and next financial years;